support seminars, workshops, training programmes, exhibitions, essay and painting competitions, nature study tours, establishment of eco-clubs in schools and colleges, production and distribution of education material etc. In these endeavours, the Department is assisted by two of its institutions namely Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, and the National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi, and others.

Interpretation of NIT Award

1623. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:
SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the reasons for which his Ministry is not constituting National Industrial Tribunal for interpretation of the NIT Award No. NTB 1 of 1985 although failure report was received by the Ministry in November, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): The matter is under consideration.

Export of Tea to Iran

1624. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:
DR. R. K. PODDAR:
SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tea Board overruled the objection of the Calcutta Customs by clearing export of tea to Iran at a lower prices resulting in a loss of over Rs. 10 crores in foreign exchange to the country;

(b) if so, the persons responsible therefor in the Board;

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) whether any action is contemplated against the persons involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Supply of arms to South Africa by NATO Allies

1625. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the NATO allies including France are sending arms to South Africa in violation of 1977 International Arms Embargo;

(b) whether the Indian Government have made any protest to the NATO allies along with Switzerland in this regard; and

(c) if so, when the reaction of the Indian Government was despatched to those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government are aware of such reports.

(b) and (c) Our opposition to such violations is well known and has been reiterated from time to time in various international fora.

Indian National working in Lebanon

1626. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian workers who are working in various fields in Lebanon are work-

ing under great risks to their lives;

(b) whether any information was furnished to the Government of India by the Indian Embassy there in this regard; and

(c) if so, what follow-up action the Central Government have taken for the safety of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. However, not only Indians but all persons living in Lebanon face some risks to their lives and property due to the difficult security situation in that country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Our Embassy in Lebanon has been vigorously pursuing the question of the welfare and safety of Indian nationals with the Lebanese authorities and other concerned parties. The Embassy is also extending all possible assistance to Indian nationals resident in Lebanon.

Merger of MMTC with STC

1627. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the merger of the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation with the State Trading Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) There is at present no proposal under the consideration of Government for the merger of MMTC with STC. However, Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad is conducting a study on organisational structure of a holding company in the public sector with a view to assessing its suitability for foreign trade operations.

Pamphlets, Books etc. prescribed by Government

1628. DR. MOHD. HASHMI KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the pamphlets, books and periodicals prescribed by the Central Government during the last three years for containing highly inflammatory and objectionable material and thereby preaching communal hatred; and

(b) what are the details of action taken against the editors, authors, printers and publishers of these pamphlets, books and periodicals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Central Government have not issued any orders prescribing any book or periodical of the type mentioned. Individuals connected with such publications are liable for prosecution under sections 153-A, 153-B or 295 IPC as the case may be and appropriate action against them is taken by the State Govts./UT Administrations.

Volume of tea trade

1629. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the volume of tea trade during the last two years, year-wise;